(c) whether Government are aware of the amount and area of land that has become waste and crops and forests damaged due to the rapid growth of this grass; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) It is learnt that the species *Parthenium hysterophorus* Linn (Family Asteraceae) was recorded in West Bengal as early as 1845. The occurrence of the same species, also known as 'Congress Grass' was reported from Pune in 1956. It is stated that the Weed was introduced through foodgrains under the PL-480 Scheme.

(b) Scientists of the Botanical Survey of India have observed and studied the features of 'Congress Grass', and also the possibilities of using other species to check the growth of the weed.

(c) and (d) Congress Grass has currently occupied large areas of agricultural and non-agricultural land in the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka. However, no data is available about the exact area of its spread.

Expenditure on the National Museum of Natural History

257. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual expenditue on the National Museum of Natural History;

(b) the expenditure on the emoluments of the employees of the Museum;

(c) what is the total strength of the staff therein; and

(d) the number of Senior staff who have visited such museums in other parts of the world?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The annual expenditure on the National Museum of Natural History during the financial year 1991-92 was Rs. 115.99 lakhs.

(b) The expenditure on the emoluments of the employees of the Museum during the financial year 1991-92 was Rs. 31.92 lakhs.

(c) The total strength of the Museum staff is 122.

(d) 10 members of the staff of the Museum have visited museums in other parts of the world.

Prevention of cruelty to animals

258. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases detected under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals act during the last three years;

(b) the animals against whom the cruelty was done;

(c) whether any convictions were made or penalties imposed; and

(d) the steps being taken for the effective implemantetion of this legislation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The State/Union Territory Government of Gujarat, Sikkim, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Andaman Nicobar Islands, Punjab, Tripura, Daman & Diu, Rajasthan, Mizoram, Orissa and Meghalaya have reported datection of 21181 cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 during the last three years.

(b) Acts of Cruelty were generally committed against Buffaloes, Camals, Goats, Sheeps, Cows, Dogs, Bulls, Monkeys and birds.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Measures Taken to implement the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 include the following:

(i) Animal Welfare Board has taken up training programme for mem-